

REMARKS

By this Amendment, the specification has been amended, claims 1-4 have been amended, and claims 5 and 6 have been canceled, leaving claims 1-4 pending. The amendment to claim 2 corrects a minor typographical error and does not narrow the scope of this claim. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 3 and 4 is provided at page 2, last two lines to page 3, line 3; and paragraphs [0021] and [0024] of the present specification. The specification has been amended to correct several typographical errors. Reconsideration of the June 6, 2003 Office Action is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 3, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 has been canceled. The recitation of "at least one selected from the group consisting of an α -diketone, a β -diketone, an α -hydroxyketone and a carboxylic acid," has been deleted in claim 1, and is now recited in claims 3 and 4, which each depend from claim 1. Applicants submit that the amendments fully address each of the points raised in the Office Action. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

2. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,282,208 to Young et al. ("Young") in view of "Tyzor®-Organic Titanates" by E.I duPont de Nemours & Co. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, recites "a method for producing a titanium-containing aqueous solution, comprising reacting a titanium alkoxide with water in the presence of at least one of ammonia, and amines selected from a primary amine, a secondary amine, and a tertiary amine, wherein the titanium-containing aqueous solution contains titanic acid ions" (emphasis added). According to the claimed invention, when the recited titanium alkoxide is reacted with water in the presence of at least one of ammonia and amines selected from a primary amine, secondary amine and tertiary amine, there will be present in the aqueous

solution dissolved titanic acid ions and amine ions through an acid-base reaction between the amine and titanic acid derived from the alkoxide. The amines provide the unexpected effect of functioning not as a ligand (i.e., a molecule, ion or atom attached to a central atom of a chelate, for example) bonding to titanium, but as a base. See page 2, last two lines to page 3, line 3; and paragraph [0016] of the present specification. Young and "Tyzor®-Organic Titanates" fail to suggest the method recited in claim 1.

Young discloses adherent controlled release pesticides. Young discloses that organic titanium chelates can be used for delayed hydrolysis purposes (column 3, lines 22-23). At column 3, lines 41-45, Young discloses that "the titanium chelates are generally prepared by the reaction of a titanium alkoxide such as tetraisopropyl titanate and the appropriate bi- or multifunctional compound." Young describes titanium chelates at column 3, lines 28-40. Young mentions that "the preparation of aqueous solutions of the titanium chelates is described in 'Tyzor Organic Titanates' " (See column 3, lines 48-52 of Young).

However, the titanium chelates disclosed by Young and "Tyzor Organic Titanates" are different from the titanium in the form of titanic acid ions in the claimed titanium-containing aqueous solution recited in claim 1. The cited references also fail to suggest somehow modifying Young to achieve the method recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable.

The cited references also fail to suggest the method recited in dependent claims 2-4 for at least the same reasons stated above for claim 1. Moreover, claims 2-4 recite additional features that are not suggested by the cited references. For example, claim 4, as amended, recites that "the reaction is carried out in the presence of at least one selected from the group consisting of an α -diketone, a β -diketone, an α -hydroxyketone and a carboxylic acid when ammonia and/or the primary amine only is used" (emphasis added). The features recited in claim 4 clearly are not suggested by the cited references.

Thus, the method recited in claims 1-4 is patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

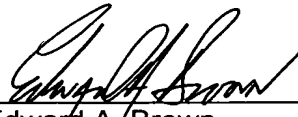
For the foregoing reasons, prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding this communication or the application in general, please contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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